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STATINTL

Swedish Spy: Easy to Get U.S. Secrets

STOCKHOLM, May 26 (AP).—Col. Stig Wennerstrom has testified that, as a spy for the Russians, he had no difficulty in collecting information about U.S. defense industries.

"It was easy to get information if you indicated you were interested in buying," the 57-year-old airman-diplomat declared in secret proceedings made public in part today.

"This was no problem for me as I made purchases for the Swedish Air Force. The Air Force bought a great deal of material from the United States and I visited many coun-

tries. It was easy to make contact with the top executives."

He was Sweden's air attache in Washington from 1952 to 1957.

Wennerstrom said information on Polaris submarines was among material he turned over to Moscow.

Wennerstrom has admitted spying against his homeland, the United States and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization for 14 years. Tried only for relaying Sweden's defense secrets to the Russians, he is to hear the verdict June 12.

RECORD RELEASED

In an open court session May 15 he said he acted from "idealistic motives." The prosecution demanded that he be sentenced to life imprisonment. His defense counsel suggested 12 years in prison.

Parts of the records of the

police investigation and interrogation released today covered the only top spy in the Swedish defense system. He said 900 of a total of 3,700 pages, another colonel, now dead, worked as an agent for the United States. The rest is marked secret and probably will never be published.

The name of the colonel was Wennerstrom said he was not made public.

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Questions Raised

Swedish Spy Trial Ripples

By George Embree

Special to The Christian Science Monitor
Stockholm

Several important questions have risen out of the espionage trial of Swedish Air Force Col. Stig Wennerstroem.

In addition to the question of how seriously Western and Swedish defenses have been

impaired, officials are wondering what effect the trial will have on Soviet Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev's June visit and next fall's parliamentary elections.

Colonel Wennerstroem has stated that he spied not only against Sweden but also against the United States and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. He has stressed that "Sweden was no primary target," and that his espionage was mainly directed against the Western Alliance.

Motivations Described

He has asserted that his motivations were "idealistic, aimed at preserving the peace and power balance of the world."

The court case involves only Colonel Wennerstroem's reported espionage against Sweden over a 14-year period. The prosecution has charged that the Air Force officer turned over 160 top defense secrets of Sweden to the Soviet Government.

He said that Colonel Wennerstroem started his spy career for the Germans in World War II, then switched to the Soviets after Stalingrad. The prosecutor said vanity, hunger for prestige, and money were the motives.

Emotions Cool

There have thus far been no indications that the espionage case will force the cancellation of Mr. Khrushchev's visit. The violent emotions which forced cancellation of his 1959 Scandinavian trip only a few days before he was to arrive have considerably cooled with the general thawing of East-West relations.

When Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei A. Gromyko visited Sweden late last March to pave the way for Mr. Khrushchev's visit, the Wennerstroem affair was well known to politicians of all parties. Yet Mr. Gromyko received an extremely cordial reception, and every effort was

made to smooth over an embarrassing situation.

Observers point out that Premier Tage Erlander's government has very adroitly scheduled Mr. Khrushchev's visit for the middle of the summer vacation period when politics is the last thing Swedes have on their minds. Had it been a few weeks later when the country was coming back to life and in a fighting mood for the fall election, the Socialist leader might have felt more of the opposition's sting.

Effect on Elections

Mr. Erlander has shown no signs of being concerned about the effects of the Wennerstroem scandal in the fall elections. In fact, he used the recent May Day celebrations to tell the opposition parties—the Conservatives, the Liberals, and the Central Party—that if they wanted a knock-down, drag-out fight over it he was prepared for them. He told his audience that the opposition apparently intended to use the disloyalty of one man to tar an entire government.

The Conservative press immediately replied that the opposition parties were doing nothing more than their duty in a democracy by criticizing a government which had obviously fallen down somewhere in protecting itself and the country.

Interestingly, Skanska Dagbladet, an important newspaper voice of the Central Party, took a much more restrained position, indicating that regardless of the circumstances the government was ensured of a fair and impartial investigation of the charges and countercharges.

Reuters reports that on Thursday Sweden's Parliamentary Constitutional Committee recommended the censuring of former Foreign Minister Oesten Unden for his part in the Wennerstroem affair.